

Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting June 22, 2000

Ceremony to Administer the Oath of Office

In a ceremony before the Board of Education and Department of Education staff members, Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary was administered the oath of the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Anne P. Petera.

Consent Agenda

- Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List
- Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans
- Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund
- First Review of Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to Amend 8 VAC 20-21: Regulations Governing Licensure for School Personnel to Establish a "Career Switcher" Alternative Route to Licensure--First review waived.
- First Review of Proposed Remedial Education Regulations (8 VAC 20-630)--First review waived.
- First Review of Request for Additional Graduation Requirements from Dickenson County Public Schools--First review waived.
- First Review of ABTEL's Recommendation to Establish a Cut-Score for the School Leaders Licensure Assessment for Virginia (recommendation on procedure only; no actual passing score recommended)--First review waived.
- First Review of ABTEL's Recommendation to Continue the Approval of the Virginia State University Teacher Education Program Based on the State/NCATE Review and Evaluation--First Review waived.

Resolutions and Recognitions

- Presentation of Resolutions of Appreciation to the Members of the Writing Team for the Standards of Learning in Foreign Language
- Special thanks to Dr. Linda Wallinger, Principal Specialist in Foreign Languages
- Presentation of Resolution of Recognition to Dr. Mary Etta Brown, Principal of Paul D. Burbank Elementary School in Hampton, recently named as Virginia's National Distinguished Principal for 2000

Discussion and Action Items

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>COMMENTS</i>
Final Review of Proposed Foreign Language Standards of Learning	The proposed Standards of Learning in Foreign Language were adopted unanimously.	In April 1999 the Board of Education approved a plan to revise the Standards of Learning (SOL) in Foreign Languages—French, German, Latin, and Spanish—during the 1999-2000 school year. The Board approved the revised SOL for public comment and public hearings in January 2000. On April 3, 2000, five public hearings were conducted around the state. Oral and written comments submitted during the comment period have been reviewed and analyzed, resulting in appropriate revisions to the draft SOL.
Report on Stanford 9 Test Scores	Receipt and comment.	The Stanford 9 test, which is comprised of reading, math, and language, was administered to students in grades four, six, and nine last fall. Performance improved overall from the previous year, with an increase in overall scores between 1 and 3 percentile points. Achievement in both grades four and six ranked above the national average in 10 of the 11 testing categories. Achievement in grade nine was at or above the national average in eight of 11 categories.

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Final Review of the Proposed Bylaws for the Board of Education	Amendment and adoption.	<p>The Board of Education amended Article Seven of the draft bylaws to specify the time for receipt of materials requiring action at least five days in advance of the meeting where first review is scheduled. Waiver of this requirement could only be made with a unanimous vote. Article Seven was divided into two sections, with Section 1 addressing the consent items and Section 2 addressing action items for the agenda.</p> <p>Article Three, Section 7, was amended to specify that confirmation of receipt of meeting notices must be received from a Board member in order for notice to be deemed “duly given.”</p> <p>Debate on Article Ten, the establishment of a student advisory committee, took place; however a proposed amendment to delete the article failed. The bylaws were adopted with the understanding that the Board may revisit the language in Article Ten.</p>
First Review of Proposed Passing Scores for the SOL World Geography Test	First review waived and passing scores for the “Proficient” and “Advanced” rating adopted. The Board adopted a passing score of 28 for the Proficient rating and 49 for the Advanced rating.	The Board directed the development of an additional SOL test in History/Social Sciences at the high school level to assess the SOL in World Geography. A committee of 12 Virginia educators reviewed the actual tests and followed the Modified-Angoff procedure to recommend a range of scores for the Proficient and the Advanced rating. The score range recommended for Proficient was 21-36. The score range recommended for Advanced was 40-54.
Informational Report on Foreign Language Education in Virginia: Foreign Language Association of Va. and the Va. Foreign Language Supervisors’ Association	Presented for information: No Board action	Mrs. Norah L. Jones, president of the Foreign Language Association of Virginia, moderated a presentation on the value of foreign language instruction.

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First Review of Requests for a Waiver of the Requirements of 8 VAC 20-131-110 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia from Prince William County and Albemarle County Public Schools	Requests approved on an annual basis, with the condition that evaluations and reports to the Board on the academic results of the electronically delivered courses are provided by October by Albemarle County Schools and by Prince William Schools in June.	Both Prince William County Public Schools and Albemarle County Public Schools requested the provision of electronically delivered high school courses for graduation credit. These courses are based on 140 instructional hours of content, but may not meet the 140 clock hours for instruction required in the Standards of Accreditation (SOA) for the four core academic areas.
Annual Report of State Special Education Advisory Committee	Acceptance and Resolution of Recognition given to outgoing Chair Thomas W.D. Smith.	The report included the recommendation that the level of involvement in the mainstream instruction of the SOL be maintained and that the Department of Education review and revise the current accommodations being provided for testing.
Report on the Status of the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program	Update provided to the Board for information only.	The 1997 Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) require that each state develop a system of alternate assessment for children with disabilities who cannot participate in state and district-wide assessment programs. This status report includes an executive summary of accomplishments to date; a list of steering committee members; a statement of philosophy and purpose, guidelines for participation of students in the alternate assessment, and a question/answer document.
First Review of ABTEL's Recommendation to Establish Cut-Scores for the Praxis II Middle School Content Assessments in English, Mathematics, Science, and His-	First review waived and the cut scores adopted.	Virginia middle school teachers and educators participated in the validation and standard-setting studies for the Educational Testing Service Middle Education Content tests. Panels of content experts reviewed these test specifications to ensure an appropriate match between the Praxis II tests and the competencies set forth in the 1998 Licensure Regulations for Schools Personnel and the SOL. The panel's studies and recom-

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tory/Social Studies		<p>mended cut-scores were provided to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL).</p> <p>After discussion, the Board adopted the recommended cut scores.</p>
First Review of Appointments to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, Effective July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003	First review waived and nominations accepted.	Six members of the Advisory Board were re-appointed for a second three-year term. Four positions were initial three-year appointments—two elementary classroom teachers, one a higher education institution representative from a private school, and one a business community representative.
Public Hearing to Receive Comment on the Proposed Revisions to the Regulations Governing Licensure for School Personnel (American Sign Language Provisions and the Military Alternate Route Provisions) and the Regulations Governing Substitute Teachers	Presentation and receipt of comments.	One speaker spoke in favor of the American Sign Language proposed regulations. One speaker representing the Association of Teacher Educators in Virginia and the Virginia Association for Colleges with Teacher Educators spoke to the Military Alternate Route Provisions, conveying recommendations from the two groups, based on member colleges' experiences with conducting "career switcher" programs.
First Review of Proposed Guidelines for Mentor Teacher Program for Beginning and Experienced Teacher Participation	First review waived and guidelines adopted.	During 1999 Susan Noble, vice-president of the Board, chaired a Mentor Teacher Task Force to develop guidelines for the implementation of mentor programs on a statewide basis, in response to the <i>Education Accountability and Quality Enhancement Act of 1999</i> . The report of the Mentor Teacher Task Force was presented to the Board in November. The 2000 Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$2.75 million for the 2000-2002 biennium to provide mentors for approximately 5,000 beginning teachers.

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Public Comment	The Board heard from seven persons during the public comment period.	<p>Five speakers addressed the pending revisions to the Standards of Accreditation. Three commented that the SOA still places too much emphasis on SOL test scores as the criteria for graduation and school accreditation. One speaker expressed concern that the proposed Basic Diploma might shift students into vocational tracks, and that benchmarks proposed for measuring progress towards full accreditation should be based on the records of individual schools. One speaker expressed support for the mandatory recess for elementary schools clause proposed for the SOA, and requested that the term “recess” be defined as “child initiated unstructured play.” One speaker spoke in favor of the Basic Diploma and requested that the mathematics course requirements for the diploma maintain academic content beyond consumer math, including algebraic and geometric applications.</p> <p>A speaker appealed a DOE staff interpretation of the SOA concerning transfer of credits.</p> <p>One speaker from George Mason University presented a summary of survey findings concerning Northern Virginia parents’ feelings about the SOL tests.</p>